

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-4 (Cancelled).

5. (Withdrawn) Flexible sleeve preform (2) which can be used in the process according to one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that it consists of a prefabricated hollow element, made of a flexible thermoformable material, of approximately conical or cylindrical shape, having a closed end of rounded shape.
6. (Withdrawn) Preform according to claim 5, characterized in that it is made of a polyolefin foam or ethylene-vinyl acetate foam, by themselves or as a blend with other thermoformable materials.
7. (Withdrawn) Flexible sleeve for a prosthesis or orthosis, manufactured by a process according to one of claims 1 to 4.
8. (New) A process for manufacturing a flexible sleeve serving as interface between a prosthesis or an orthosis and a stump or stump replica of a limb of a patient, wherein said process comprises the steps of:

 selecting a sleeve preform (2) of generally conical or cylindrical shape, which consists of a prefabricated hollow element made of a flexible thermoformable material selected from the materials consisting of a polyolefin foam, an ethylene-vinyl acetate foam by themselves or a blend of said materials with other thermoformable materials;

said sleeve preform having a closed end of rounded shape possessing dimensions, which are matched to those of the stump, or stump replica which is to be fitted with the prosthesis or with the orthosis;

heating said sleeve preform (2) until said preform softens;

slipping said softened sleeve preform (2) over the stump or stump replica (1) thereof;

matching the shape of the softened sleeve preform (2) to that of the stump or of the stump replica (1);

cooling the shaped preform (2) while being arranged on the stump or on the stump replica; and

removing the flexible cooled sleeve preform which constitutes the final sleeve (4) from the stump or from the stump replica.

9. (New) A process according to Claim 8, wherein the softened flexible preform (2) is conformed to the shape of the stump or of the stump replica (1) thereof by exerting an external pressure against said sleeve.
10. (New) A process according to Claim 8, wherein the softened flexible preform (2) is conformed to the shape of the stump or of the stump replica (1) thereof by imparting a vacuum to the interior of said sleeve preform.